

HONORING BENJAMIN MILLER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and our former House colleague, the great George Miller. Together, we wish to honor Benjamin

(Ben) Miller who served each of us, and our country, with distinction for the past eighteen years. Ben departs the Hill on January 1, 2021 after eight years as my Chief of Staff, and before that a decade in Congressman Miller's office where he worked his way up from intern, to Legislative Assistant, to Legislative Director, to Deputy Chief of Staff. Throughout the Capitol and on both sides of the aisle, Ben has earned the respect, admiration, and affection of his peers. His tenure in the House is the very model of public service.

When I was first elected to Congress in 2012, I sought out Ben knowing that his talents, experience and disposition would make him a great Chief of Staff. He exceeded my highest expectations. He helped me assemble a quality staff team and establish an office culture that reflects a strong work ethic, a fun and collegial environment, and a constant focus on carrying out our progressive policy agenda and getting things done. Ben never sought attention or personal recognition; he just did excellent work, usually behind the scenes.

Like Congressman Miller and myself, Ben shares a passion for the sustainable management of our natural resources. Throughout his career on the Hill, Ben has been a friend to flora and fauna, a champion of bedrock environmental laws like NEPA and the Endangered Species Act, and a happy warrior in defense of our great American outdoors and the people and organizations that passionately work for its protection.

Longtime staffers and outside experts can attest that Ben is a subject matter guru on what is arguably the most intricate, combustible, and Byzantine issue of all: California water. Ben understands that California water conflicts sometimes require you to fight, which is easy enough to do; but he also knows that achieving meaningful, durable results requires you to do the much harder work of engaging constructively and solving complex water problems.

Beyond his policy expertise and legislative acumen, Ben will be remembered fondly by Team Huffman for the human qualities that were hallmarks of his leadership: honesty, professionalism, kindness of spirit, and the good humor he brought to work every day.

Ben is a dedicated husband to Caitlin, and a proud father to Sam and Campbell. For reasons I will never understand, he is also a passionate fan of the San Antonio Spurs, through good times and bad. We forgive him for that.

Madam Speaker, the functioning of our legislative branch which is so vital to our democratic republic has always depended on skilled, dedicated, unheralded congressional staffers. For eighteen years, in the most exemplary manner, Ben has provided that essential public service. He has earned the deep respect of his peers, and my enduring gratitude for being such a wonderful Chief of Staff.

On behalf of myself, Congressman Miller, and dozens of current and former staffers who

were privileged to work with Ben, we thank him for his public service; we thank his family for sharing him with us; and we wish him much success and happiness in his future endeavors.

CELEBRATING IRIS CUMMINGS CRITCHELL'S 100TH BIRTHDAY**HON. JUDY CHU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the 100th birthday of one of my constituents, Iris Cummings Critchell, a remarkable woman who has led an extraordinary life.

Iris was born on December 21, 1920, in Los Angeles, California. She was a competitive swimmer in her youth and was the U.S. champion in the 200-meter breaststroke from 1936 to 1939. Her hard work and talents led her to represent the United States in the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. Shortly thereafter, she attended the University of Southern California (USC) and graduated in 1941 with a degree in physical sciences and mathematics.

Interested in aviation from an early age, Iris was accepted into USC's first Civilian Pilot Training Program in 1939. She received her pilot's license in 1940 and began work as a pilot instructor after graduating college. During WWII, Iris joined the Women's Auxiliary Ferrying Squadron (WAFS), which later merged into the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP). She served as a member of the 6th Ferrying Group out of Long Beach, California, ferrying planes built in Southern California across the country. During her service, she flew 27 different types of military aircraft, nearly 30 types of civilian aircraft, and flew 18 military aircraft as the pilot in command. It was during her time in the service that she met her husband and fellow military pilot, Howard Critchell.

After the War, Iris returned to the University of Southern California to develop and teach a curriculum on civilian aviation for returning veterans. In 1962, Iris and Howard joined the faculty of Harvey Mudd College, where they founded the Bates Aeronautics Program, a two-year program to teach undergraduates to fly. She ran the program with Howard until he retired in 1979 and continued alone until the program ended in 1990 with her retirement, although she continued to teach aeronautics classes until 1996.

Among her many honors, Iris was inducted into the National Flight Instructors Hall of Fame in 2000, awarded the Federal Aviation Administration's Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award in 2006, and awarded the Nile Gold Medal of the Fédération Aéronautique Internationale in 2007 for her lifetime of dedication to aviation education.

Although she has been retired for 30 years, Iris continues to be an active member of both the Harvey Mudd College and aviation communities, mentoring students and anyone interested in aviation. She serves as a role model for women aviators and is an inspiration to all with whom she interacts. It is my distinct honor to recognize Iris Cummings Critchell's lifetime service to our country, and I ask my colleagues to join me in sending our best

wishes to her and her family as they celebrate her 100th birthday on December 21st.

IN HONOR OF COLONEL ANDREW "COBY" SHORT**HON. JOHN JOYCE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Andrew "Coby" Short of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania for his service to Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District on the 2020 U.S. Service Academy Nomination Committee.

Nominating exceptional candidates to attend our nation's service academies is one of my most important responsibilities in Congress. During this process, I rely on members of the Service Academy Nomination Committee, which is comprised of dedicated volunteers who have served our nation with distinction.

Colonel Short is one of nine academy alumni who graciously volunteered their time to meet with and evaluate perspective nominees for the Class of 2025. As a graduate of the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, Colonel Short knows firsthand the qualities and dedication that are critical for succeeding at the academies. He provided wise counsel and expertise throughout the nominating process, and I am grateful for his time and commitment.

Colonel Andrew "Coby" Short is an outstanding Pennsylvanian and American, as well as an excellent role model for future academy students. On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, it is my honor to recognize Colonel Short for his service to our community and our nation.

MORRIS BROWN COLLEGE**HON. KWANZA HALL**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, To God and Truth.

That is the motto of Morris Brown College. This is a historic institution which was founded in 1881 as a private Methodist college in Atlanta to educate blacks, just 20 years after the start of the Civil War.

Unfortunately, over the last 20 years, the state of this legendary institution has fallen on hard times.

But true to its tradition and the abolitionist mantra to keep going, Morris Brown College has developed a plan to come back and be reborn.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge this body's support for this plan in two distinct ways.

First, we should reallocate federal funding for this place of knowledge and of truth and of God.

And, we should do what we can to reinvest in the revitalization of the Atlanta University Center.

If we do this, then the College can repurpose itself to the proud tradition of teaching the next generation of black scholars the important lessons of business and entrepreneurship.

In so doing, we can support this next generation to ensure that the black wealth gap begins to narrow and all can realize and take part in the American dream.

**SNEADS HIGH SCHOOL
VOLLEYBALL**

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of the Sneads High School Volleyball program in Sneads, Florida.

They recently set a new Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) record by winning their eighth straight state championship.

This accomplishment was achieved through hard work and excellence.

This dedicated team was made up of the following Sneads High School students: Caleigh Davis, Brooke A. Smith, Jada Coleman, Lily Glover, Kiara Garrett, Sister Arnold, Jade Fitzsimmons, Chloe King, Katelyn Chumly, Taylor-Reese Howell, Janiyah Jones, Aaliyah Baker, Brooke R. Smith, Gabby Bellamy, and Ella Sprouse.

The Sneads High School Volleyball program is fortunate to have the leadership of their current head coach Heather Edge and former head coach Sheila Roberts.

Coach Roberts started this legacy with five consecutive state championships followed by Coach Edge raking in three more consecutive championships to break the state record for a total of eight consecutive state championship wins.

Congratulations to the Sneads High School Lady Pirates on this outstanding accomplishment.

I know that they make their hometown of Sneads and the Jackson County School District very proud.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. KING of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on December 16, 2020 due to not being in DC. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: YES on Roll Call No. 242.

HONORING CHRIS DONESA, COUNSEL TO THE RULEMAKING MEMBER FOR THE HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to a long-standing Capitol Hill veteran, Chris Donesa. For this Congress, I have had the honor of serving as Ranking Member for the House Ethics Com-

mittee, and would like to honor someone who played a critical and important role in supporting me.

For the past two years Chris has served as Counsel to the Ranking Member for the House Ethics Committee. This is an extraordinary assignment to accept, and Chris has conducted himself with the highest levels of professionalism and legal scholarly advice. He has been integral and pivotal in assisting my fellow Republican Members of the Ethics Committee and me this Congress.

A native of Indiana, Chris has a deep commitment to public service that has continued throughout more than three decades of service in the House of Representatives. A Congressional jack of all trades, immediately prior to his service with the Ethics Committee, Chris served as Legal Counsel to the Clerk of the House. I am most fortunate that Chris brought his vast experiences and great wisdom to help my fellow Members of the Ethics Committee and me during this Congress.

The House Ethics Committee is unique amongst the committees in this chamber, as it is evenly split between the Majority and Minority parties. The committee fulfills many key roles for the House community in providing advice, education, and training to help ensure proper compliance. Perhaps the most difficult assignment for the Ethics Committee is to stand in judgment of Members and staffers when they are accused of potential wrongdoing. It takes a very special staffer to serve in this role—someone of the highest integrity and character, coupled with the desire to serve in a position that is often met with unique challenges and high stress. I could not ask for a better person than Chris to fulfill this essential role for me and the greater House community.

Chris has earned himself a well-deserved retirement at the conclusion of this Congress. However, knowing Chris, I know he won't sit still for long and I wish him all the very best for his continued service and new endeavors. I ask for all of my colleagues to join me in thanking Chris Donesa for his service to the House Ethics Committee.

**IMPORTANCE OF MINORITY AND
WOMEN OWNED BUSINESSES**

HON. KWANZA HALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak to the importance of Minority and Women owned businesses.

During the Obama Administration, this body, together with our colleagues across the Capitol, passed Dodd-Frank—legendary financial reforms in the wake of the great recession.

One of the key parts of this legislation was Section 342, the office of minority and Women inclusion. The law ensured the eventual development of standards for the following areas:

Equal employment opportunity and the racial, ethnic, and gender diversity of the workforce and senior management of the agency;

Increased participation of minority-owned and women-owned businesses in the programs and contracts of the agency, including standards for coordinating technical assistance to such businesses; and

Assessment of the diversity policies and practices of entities regulated by the agency.

But this cannot be enough.

We must also ensure that legacy banks and black own banks are sources of capital to support financing of projects for minority communities.

We must also ensure that we support the MBDA, the Minority Business Development Agency.

The MBDA is the only federal agency tasked with promoting the growth and competitiveness of minority-owned businesses.

Madam Speaker, if we do this, we in this Chamber will ensure that the promise of the American Dream is within reach of all who seek it, especially those groups that have been historically marginalized.

**IN HONOR OF MICHAEL
DELGROSSO**

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael DelGrosso of Blair County, Pennsylvania for his service to Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District on the 2020 U.S. Service Academy Nomination Committee.

Nominating exceptional candidates to attend our nation's service academies is one of my most important responsibilities in Congress. During this process, I rely on members of the Service Academy Nomination Committee, which is comprised of dedicated volunteers who have served our nation with distinction.

Michael is one of nine academy alumni who graciously volunteered their time to meet with and evaluate perspective nominees for the Class of 2025. As a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, Michael knows firsthand the qualities and dedication that are critical for succeeding at the academies. He provided wise counsel and expertise throughout the nominating process, and I am grateful for his time and commitment.

Michael DelGrosso of Blair County is an outstanding Pennsylvanian and American, as well as an excellent role model for future academy students. On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, it is my honor to recognize Michael for his service to our community and our nation.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, due to a family matter, I was unable to make votes on 12/16/20. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 242.